

The Beachhead Gazette

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August 2011

Message from the Commanding Officer



Dear ANZIO Families and Friends,

Another month has passed quickly for us at sea as we have stayed extremely busy, conducting our maritime security operations mission as the flagship for Commander Combined Task Force 151 and his staff over the last month, throughout the Gulf of Aden, along the Somali coast, and in the Indian Ocean.

As always, words don't capture my pride in how the officers and crew of ANZIO have performed. As challenges arose -- whether in the form of broken equipment needing repair, ship-wide evolutions such as underway refueling and reprovisioning, tactical challenges of maritime missions and exercises, conducting numerous day and night helicopter operations, or just plain long days of standing required watches and performing the services needed to keep the ship and crew fully functioning -- they were conquered with dedication, teamwork and ingenuity.

This month was no exception as the ship was called to assist in aiding seven stranded Somali mariners. Having run out of fuel several days prior, our embarked helicopter spotted their boat over 50 miles from the coast and reported their situation. After providing food, fuel and water, we were unfortunately unable to restart their boat, instead taking them onboard for the night and their boat under tow astern of the ship on an improvised towline. We returned them ashore the following day, towing them and their boat to the shoreline with our small boats. We were very fortunate to be in the right place at the right time to help them from a bad situation.

We also received our first liberty in the region during August, visiting the beautiful Seychelles Islands in the Indian Ocean for a well-deserved port visit. We were able to take in the sites that the tropical island of Mahe had to offer with snorkeling trips, scuba diving, and beach barbecues with a unique blend of European and Creole flavor.

Shortly after leaving the Seychelles, we were also able to hold a time-honored, traditional ceremony known as "Crossing the Line" (the equator). Sailors who have never "crossed the line" (known as "pollywogs") must pay certain homage to the great denizen of the deep, King Neptune, when entering his domain near the equator for the first time and forever after become honorable and trusted "Shellbacks." The day was a lot of fun and I am sure will be memorable for both old and new "Shellbacks" alike.

August also brought us good news on a more personal front. We received good tidings for four of our shipmates in the form of chief petty officer selection results. For the last month now, our four Chief Petty Officer Selects have been working hard both in their normal jobs as well as in the leadership seminars hosted by the chief petty officers to make them fully ready to join this prestigious group. We are all looking forward to Sept. 16, when they will be formally promoted, pinning on their new fouled anchor rank insignia and joining the fraternity of chief petty officers.

As August comes to an end, we have reached the halfway point of our deployment. We celebrated this in style participating in several sporting and knowledge competitions onboard. The events were a good way to come together as a team, have some fun, and take a deep breath as we push into the second half of deployment. As one of the crew told me the other day, it's all downhill from here!

On behalf of all of us at sea, thank you for the tremendous support you continue to provide us while we are at sea and for all of the extraordinary work you do in keeping the "home fires burning." We couldn't do what we do here without your amazing work at home. Thank you! I think I speak for everyone when I say we miss you and look forward to finishing up the second half of cruise!

Sincerely,

CAPT John Dorey, USN
Commanding Officer, USS ANZIO (CG 68)

Anzio Recognizes Newly Selected Chiefs



Story and photos by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Brian M. Brooks

Four first class petty officers were selected for advancement to the rank of chief petty officer aboard guided-missile cruiser USS Anzio (CG 68), Aug. 1.

Chief (select) Gas Turbine System Technician (Electrical) Arnold Abadilla, Chief (select) Culinary Specialist Shane Donovan, Chief (select) Gas Turbine System Technician (Mechanical) Charles General and Chief (select) Engineman Kevin Kibbe learned of their selection when USS Anzio Commanding Officer Capt. John Dorey and Command Master Chief Donnie Novak announced the results over the ship's internal announcement system.

"Being selected for chief petty officer is a monumental achievement. I'm proud of them," said Novak. "A chief must continually strive to strengthen his leadership skills and focus on the mission, vision and guiding principles."



From left to right: Chief (select) Gas Turbine System Technician (Mechanical) Charles General, Chief (select) Culinary Specialist Shane Donovan, Chief (select) Engineman Kevin Kibbe and Chief (select) Gas Turbine System Technician (Electrical) Arnold Abadilla take a break for a photo on the mess decks in between training sessions.

The chief results are not only great news for the selectees, but also for their families back home.

"Am I happy? Yes, but I think my family is much happier for me than I am right now," said Abadilla, who has been a first class petty officer for six of his 13 years in the Navy.

The selectees will now take part in a six-week indoctrination process.

"They are entering a rigorous training program where they will be tested at length to become the finest deckplate leaders and ultimately be inducted into the U.S. Navy's oldest worldwide organization, the 'Chief Petty Officer Mess,'" said Senior Chief Sonar Technician (Surface) James Simpson.

The selectees look forward to the interaction with the chiefs, have high expectations for the learning process and are striving to become better leaders.

"I expect to gain the years of experience that have been passed down from generation to generation and have that knowledge instilled in me," Donovan said.

As the chief selectees prepare for a new phase in their career, they also offered words of encouragement for any Sailor looking to become a chief petty officer.

"If it can happen to me it can happen to anyone," Kibbe said. "It took me 18 years, so don't give up."



The gold fouled anchor and embossed 'USN' has been a recognized symbol of a chief petty officer since April 1, 1893, when the rank was first created.

USS Anzio Assists Somali Skiff

From Commander, U.S. 5th Fleet Public Affairs

Guided-missile cruiser USS Anzio (CG 68) aided a stranded Somali skiff and returned it to shore, Aug. 13.

On Aug. 12, a SH-60B helicopter from the Helicopter Anti-submarine Squadron, Light (HSL) 46 'Grandmasters,' assigned to Anzio, spotted the small skiff approximately 45 miles from shore in the Gulf of Aden, with seven mariners waving their arms in apparent distress. Anzio approached and discovered that the skiff's engines were inoperative. The mariners said they had been adrift for two days, and requested assistance.

Anzio provided food and water to the mariners, and attempted to re-

pair the vessel's engine. When repair efforts failed, the skiff was taken under tow by Anzio and its crew brought on board for the night.

The following morning, after closing the Somali coastline, the skiff's crew returned to their boat, and were towed ashore by Anzio's rigid hulled inflatable boat.



Photo by MC2 Brian M. Brooks
Members of a visit, board, search and seizure team from the guided-missile cruiser USS Anzio (CG 68) assist mariners aboard a skiff in the Gulf of Aden. The Sailors provided food and water to the distressed mariners.

USS Anzio enjoys port visit in Seychelles

Story by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Brian M. Brooks

Guided-missile cruiser USS Anzio (CG 68) departs Seychelles after an enjoyable port visit to Mahe Island, Seychelles, Aug. 18 – 22.

The port visit allowed the crew a chance to see various nature sites, interact with the local people and unwind after being out to sea for more than 40 days.

Anzio's Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) offered several outlets for the crew to take advantage of the tropical paradise such as snorkeling, scuba diving, and beach barbecues hosted by the island locals.

"The snorkeling trip was pretty sweet. I was able to see sting rays, sea turtles and tropical fish," said Electronics

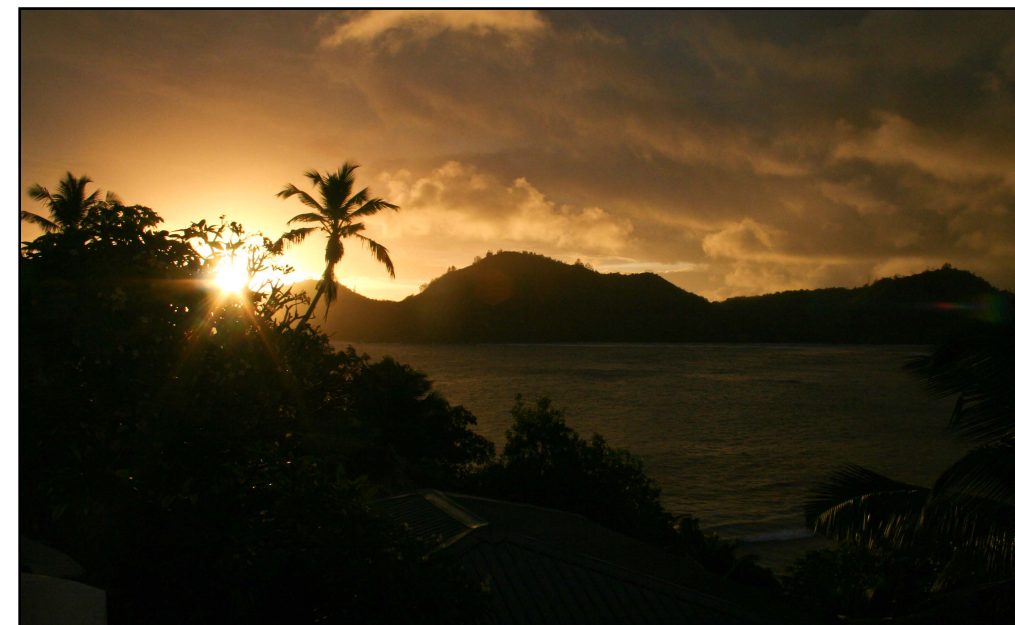


Photo by MC2 Brian M. Brooks
The sun sets over the Baie Lazare district, named after French explorer Lazare Picault who discovered the bay.



Photo by Ensign Jon Bullough

Footprints along Beau Vallon Beach public beach in Victoria, Seychelles.

Technician 3rd Class Robert Taylor. “After snorkeling, the boat took us to a beach off the beaten path and broke out grills where they cooked kabobs and all kinds of local foods. It was a good time.”

“The goal is to get people off the

ship and to enjoy their cultural experience in new countries. They may never get a chance to do this again,” said Chief Cryptologic Technician (Collection) Aaron Jackson, Anzio’s MWR coordinator. “This is my fourth time to Seychelles so I was pretty familiar to

er and a little overwhelming taking in the all beauty,” said Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Daniel Green, who’s visited the island twice before. “This trip was a good motivator and great way for me to recharge for the next half of the deployment.” 🐼

what the island has to offer in the way of tours and fun.”

The port visit was a first time experience for some Sailors and a trip back for others.

“If I had my choice of my top three memorable parts of this visit it would be the people, the scenery and the food,” said Electronics Technician 3rd Class Alex Covill about visiting for the first time.

At least one Sailor experienced the island for what felt like the first time on his return visit.

“This time I was able to see a different part of the island and it was an eye open-

Half / Fun Way / Day

The crew of USS Anzio (CG 68) celebrated the completion of the first half of the 2011 deployment with various competitions, Aug. 26.

The Moral, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) division hosted tug-of-war, strongman and jeopardy competitions as a way for the crew to have fun together and also earn some bragging rights.

At the conclusion of the day’s events, the Chief Petty Officers’ Mess hosted a steel beach picnic held on the ship’s aft missile deck. 🐼

Chief Fire Controlman Christopher Key and fellow chief petty officers compete in the tug-of-war competition held on the flight deck. The Chief Petty Officers’ Mess were the reigning champions from the 2009 deployment. They defended and retained their title as champions for a second time during this year’s competition.

Photo by MC2 Brian M. Brooks



Half / Fun Way / Day WINNERS



Tug-of-war: Chief Petty Officers’ Mess
From left to right: BMC Chad Finogle, MAC Jeffrey Barnes, FCC Chad McQueen, DCC Frank Kauffman, FCC Christopher Key, FCC Ismaeel Mojeed, PSC Jeffrey Moultrie

Jeopardy: Wardroom
From left to right: ENS Kaylor Gilford, LTJG Andrew Vann, LTJG John Camp, ENS Austin Ayers



Strongman: Heavyweight division
YN2 Jason Martin
Bench press: 385 lbs.; Squat: 365 lbs.; Deadlift: 405 lbs.; Pull-ups: 11; Push-ups: 76

Strongman: Welterweight division
AW1 Phillip Chavers
Bench press: 335 lbs.; Squat: 365 lbs.; Deadlift: 405 lbs.; Pull-ups: 19; Push-ups: 102



Strongman: Lightweight division
FCC Chad McQueen
Bench press: 280 lbs.; Squat: 395 lbs.; Deadlift: 385 lbs.; Pull-ups: 21; Push-ups: 145



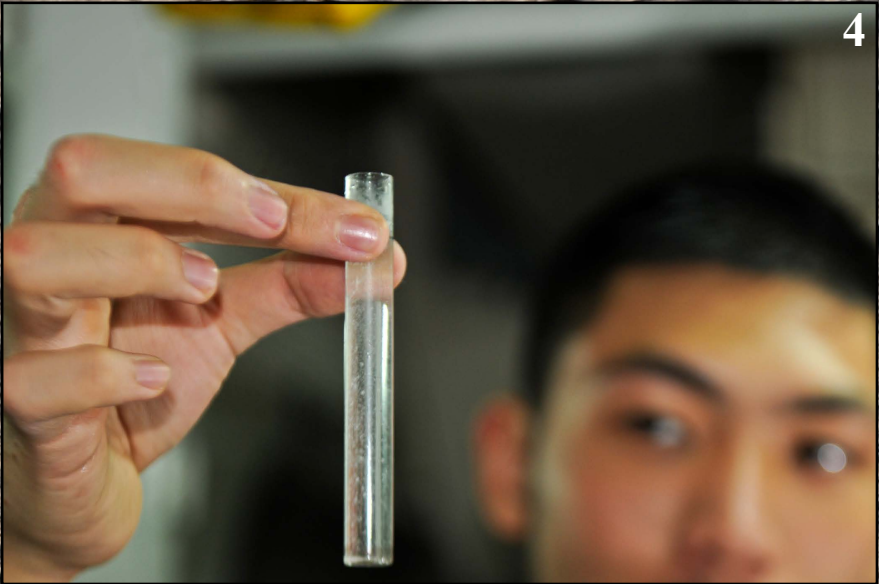
WORK
PLAY
HARD,
HARD



1



2



4



3



5



6



7

1. Gunner's Mate 2nd Class Derek Saddison fires a messenger shot line toward Military Sealift Command dry cargo and ammunition ship USNS WALLY SCHIRRA (T-AKE 8), during a replenishment-at-sea, Aug. 8.
 2. Sailors assigned to USS ANZIO's visit, board, search and seizure team clean weapons as part of maintenance checks, Aug. 15.
 3. Operations Specialist 1st Class Brandon Thompson plots the position of USS ANZIO as the ship prepares to pull into the island of Mahe, Seychelles for a port visit, Aug. 18.
 4. Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Ronnie Gana tests a drinking water sample for proper levels of bromine, a water purification agent, Aug. 10.
 5. Lt. j.g. John Camp stands on the port bridge wing of USS ANZIO during a full moon, Aug. 12.
 6. Operations Specialist 3rd Class Marcelo Martis dead-lifts 455 lbs. as he competes in the strongman competition as part of the mid-deployment activities, Aug. 26.
 7. Operations Specialist 2nd Class Anthony Faccoli fishes off the fantail of USS ANZIO during a steel beach picnic, Aug. 17.
- Background photo** - Members of a visit, board, search and seizure team from USS ANZIO assist mariners aboard a skiff in the Gulf of Aden. The Sailors provided food and water to the distressed mariners, Aug. 12.



AROUND THE FLEET: Navy Details ERB First Phase Quotas, Precepts

By Chief Mass Communication Specialist (SW) Maria Yager, Navy Personnel Command Public Affairs

Navy Personnel Command (NPC) published final quotas and guidance for Phase I of the Enlisted Retention Board (ERB) to the NPC website Aug. 22.

According to documents posted on the ERB Web page, the board will review the records of 6,243 active duty E-4 and E-5 Sailors from 31 overmanned ratings for 4,403 available retention quotas during the first phase.

Approved quotas broken down by rating were posted to the ERB Web page along with the ERB precept. The precept is a written order signed by the chief of naval personnel, providing general and specific guidance to the selection board.

According to the precept, the primary factor for retention is sustained superior performance. Other factors include:

- Deck-plate leadership
- Competency/skill requirements
- Navy Enlisted Classifications
- Education/personal and professional development

- Navy Special Warfare enablers
- Anti-terrorism and force protection
- Special duty assignments
- Overseas and arduous duty
- Collateral duties

The board is charged with reviewing each candidate's official military personnel file and any correspondence submitted by the member to identify the best qualified Sailors to receive retention quotas. After the selection board reviews the records of all eligible candidates and selects the best and fully qualified Sailors based on the precept, their results are forwarded to the chief of naval personnel for final approval.

Navy announced the ERB earlier this year as a result of record-high retention and low attrition among active duty Sailors. The ERB is designed to ensure the Navy meets its congressionally mandated end-strength while rebalancing the force.

"We value every Sailor and family, so the decision to establish this board was made

after careful consideration," said Rear Adm. Don Quinn, acting chief of naval personnel. "We simply had to face the reality of the situation. Unlike the drawdown nearly ten years ago, we are providing the opportunity this time, on a level-playing field, for all to compete to stay."

A second phase will convene in September 2011 to review active duty E-6, E-7 and E-8 Sailors.

Sailors not selected for retention, but qualified by their Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery scores to convert, may compete for a selected Reserve Perform to Serve quota. Sailors not selected for retention will have access to the Navy's Transition Assistance Management Program and post-separation benefits allowed by law.

For eligibility criteria, affected rates and more information, visit the NPC ERB Web page at <http://www.public.navy.mil/bupers-npc/boards/ERB/Pages/default2.aspx>.

September Birthdays

GSEFA WILLIAM ANDERSON
ET3 ADAM BLACKWELL
OS2 CARL BOWMAN
SHSA AARON DANNER
CTR2 JEFFERY DOW
ENFN ARNOLD EMERY
ET3 DAVID FALAPPINO
GSE2 STEVEN HARTZFELD
OS2 ROBERT HENRY

SR JOHN JENNINGS
ICFN MICHAEL KNUDTSON
LTJG ANTHONY KOZAK
CTR1 TIMOTHY KUIPER
HT2 AARON LAPRE
GSM2 GREGORY LOTMAN
GSM3 JULIEN MARIONEUX
QMSN JOHN MAXWELL
FC2 GRAHAM NELSEN
CMDCM DONNIE NOVAK

CTT2 MATTHEW PAGE
OSSR BRANDON RASCO
GSE3 LAWRENCE SHIRD
GSM3 GEOFFREY SPILLERS
FC2 JUSTIN TOLLE
GSMC GILBERT THOMAS
ENS BRENDAN WHELAN
FC2 GREGORY WILSON
FC2 JERRON WYATT

New Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialists

HM3 (SW) DANIEL GREEN

QM3 MICHAEL MARTINEZ

GSMFN DEMETRIOS BOGAN

Distance Traveled

Since August 1, 2011

Approx. 28,000 miles

Fun Shipboard Facts

Supply replenishments for August:

Pallets received during replenishment-at-sea: 190 pallets to include dry goods, frozen food, fresh fruits and vegetables, ship store supplies, shipboard parts and mail.

Anzio on Facebook

Want to stay informed about the crew of USS Anzio? 'Like' us on Facebook @

Official USS Anzio (CG 68)

Commanding Officer:
CAPT John Dorey

Executive Officer:
CDR Nathan York

Command Master Chief:
CMDCM (SW/AW) Donnie Novak

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